



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE** **March 14, 2007**

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### **Senate Bill 1067 - An Act Authorizing Civil Fines for Hospital Violations**

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The Department of Public Health supports Senate Bill 1067.

The Department supports the concept of issuing civil fines to hospitals. Monetary fines are one tool that a regulatory agency may use to enforce compliance with health and safety requirements. However as written, it would be extremely cumbersome to enforce this proposal in that a hearing would need to occur prior to the issuance of each civil fine.

Currently there are regulations for nursing homes regarding civil fines, which are more appropriate to protect the public's health and safety. These regulations include a provision for a hearing to be held after the issuance of the civil fine. This hearing would be conducted if the licensee chooses to contest the civil fine. Thus due process is protected as are the resident patients.

The Department is opposed to placing this remedy under CGS 19a-494, instead the Department would like to model civil fine impositions after those for nursing homes as identified in CGS 19a-524 through 19a-529.

This bill would provide the Department with another appropriate remedy against a hospital, which has failed to comply with applicable statutes and regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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